

retirement. We truly cannot give enough thanks to someone who has dedicated himself to making sure we Senators—literally—dot our ‘i’s’ and cross our ‘t’s’. •

JACKIE EBRON

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, this past Sunday the Queens Jewish Community Council honored an important member of the staff of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council). Her name is Jackie Ebron and she helps serve the more than 100,000 clients who are helped by this remarkable organization. Ms. Ebron, the Met Council's longest serving employee and Director of Crisis Intervention is an African-American whose exceptional service to impoverished Jewish New Yorkers was recently highlighted in New York's Jewish Week newspaper.

In the past seven years the Met Council has developed 1300 units of special needs housing for the elderly, mentally ill and the homeless; every day they provide nearly three thousand poor elderly individuals with home care services; they provide job placement to more than one thousand people a year and have trained more than 20,000 home attendants since 1993. Their food programs impact on the lives of well over 100,000 people and they also provide furniture and clothing to thousands. The Met Council's coordination of a network of two dozen Jewish Community Councils across New York City helps deliver services where they are needed in a timely and efficient manner. The Met Council is also one of the most efficient non-profit organizations today. They spend 98% of their budget on programs and services; only 2% is spent on administration.

I ask that the Jewish Week article on Jackie Ebron be printed in the RECORD. The article follows:

[From the Jewish Week, Mar. 19, 1999]

THEY CALL HER ‘MITZVAH MAMA’

(By Heather Robinson)

By the time she was 8 years old, Jackie Ebron, who is soon to become the first African-American to receive the Queens Jewish Community Council's Chessed Award, had begun helping the elderly.

Growing up in the Grant Projects on 125th Street, her family had an elderly neighbor who rarely left her apartment.

“My mother would never send me to the store that I didn't knock on this woman's door and ask, ‘Do you need a loaf of bread or milk?’” recalled Ebron on a recent afternoon. “So [the motivation to help] was with was a child.”

Ebron has channeled that motivation into more than two decades of work helping the elderly and others in need. Over the years, she has visited more than 5,000 needy homes and helped many thousands more clients over the phone. And through her work, she quickly overcame an initial prejudice: “In my background,” she says, “the words Jewish and poor didn't go together. But there is

a very big Jewish poor population at the poverty level or below.”

Now the director of crisis intervention services for the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) in Manhattan, Ebron will receive the Chessed Award on Sunday at the Third Annual Installation Breakfast of the Queens Jewish Community Council (QJCC). Shea Stadium's Diamond Club, the site of the event, will go kosher for the first time in honor of the breakfast for the QJCC, an organization representing more than 90 synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout the borough.

At the event, Ebron will share her honor with Jane Blumenstein, family violence crisis specialist for Met Council. The pair has been selected because of the extraordinary dedication they bring to their work, according to Manny Behar, executive director of the QJCC. He added that he and other officers of the QJCC chose this year's recipients, as they always do, based on character.

“We always give the award to someone who exemplifies *chesed*, which is Hebrew for acts of loving kindness, and this time, one of the people we selected happens to be African-American and non-Jewish,” he said.

Because the QJCC and Met Council work together frequently, Behar said he has had many opportunities to observe the rare sensitivity and respect for people which Ebron—whose colleagues call her “Mitzvah Mama”—brings to her work.

Behar recently watched Ebron provide assistance to a homeless, mentally ill man, and he admired her manner. “The patience and understanding she showed him were absolutely inspiring,” he recalled.

According to Peter Brest, chief operation officer at Met Council, Ebron “combines a great and giving heart with a common sense approach to problem solving.”

While Met Council, which receives public funding, assists many needy non-Jews, it also receives private funds and specifically targets Jewish poverty. The result is that about 80 percent of Ebron's clients are Jews, a fact which is no obstacle to her dedication.

“To me it doesn't matter what race or religion you are,” she said. “If you are hungry or homeless, I see your need.”

A social worker for more than 25 years, Ebron, 48, grew up in Harlem, the eldest of seven children raised by a single mother. She attended Washington Irving High School in Gramercy, which was an all-girls school at the time.

After graduating, she started working at Heights Senior Citizens' Center, where her responsibilities entailed escorting elderly people to the bank and helping them with financial transactions. That was during the '70s, before direct deposit, when older people carrying social security checks were frequently targets for thieves.

That job was followed by a stint as an investigator for the mid-Bronx Senior Citizens' Council, a position that involved a large amount of what she describes as “leg work” to find elderly people in need.

Met Council hired her in 1977 to work on a special project arranged by a donor. In that capacity, she made home visits to needy families, and reported what she observed to the benefactor, who then provided financial aid to the neediest cases.

After a series of other jobs, five years ago, Met Council appointed Ebron director of crisis intervention services. A supervisor of six employees, she deals directly with clients, working to provide them with assistance from Met Council and a host of additional agencies. That assistance can take many

forms, such as securing job training for a young immigrant, providing funds to prevent an elderly woman from being evicted, or arranging temporary nursing help for a woman who has just given birth to multiple children. About 65 percent of her clients are elderly, 25 percent are families and the rest are young single people, Ebron said.

As an African-American woman serving the needs of a mostly Jewish population Ebron has encountered resistance on both sides of the racial and religious divide.

“I've been asked, ‘How come a black woman is in charge of Jewish money?’” said Ebron, adding that she responds, “‘Does it matter what I look like? What matters is I'm able to serve you to help you overcome your problem.’”

Similarly, she said, African American colleagues have questioned her choice to work for a Jewish agency.

“I'll say to them, ‘My clients are Jewish. Well, I didn't know. I was so focused on the fact that they're people who need my help.’ Usually when I answer that way there's no problem, no fight . . . It seems my calling is above all of that.”

Ebron, who is single and describes herself as “married to [her] job,” said she is gratified to work for an agency which began modestly and has since launched an array of life-and hope-sustaining programs.

“After 21 years I feel I made the right choice,” she said. •

RECOGNITION OF THE MISSOURI INVITATIONAL CELEBRITY TURKEY HUNT

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the annual Missouri Invitational Celebrity Turkey Hunt sponsored by the MITCH club. This year marks the 12th anniversary of this charity event. The weekend of April 23-25, celebrities from all over the country will come to Warsaw, Missouri, to participate in the hunt. This year's participants include celebrities from many different fields including Marty Kove, who has appeared in such movies as The Karate Kid and The Rock; Ed Hearn, former Major League Baseball player; Jack Rudney, former Kansas City Chief; Dave Watson of the Oakridge Boys, and many others. Several corporate sponsors also donate time and money to this event. Following the hunt, there is an auction of items that have been donated by various celebrities, sponsors, as well as local and national wildlife artists.

The money collected from this weekend of activities is donated to various charitable organizations including Children's Mercy Hospital and local victims of natural disasters. Over the last 12 year's, more than \$25,000 have been donated to Children's Mercy Hospital and over \$25,000 to other local charities for a total of more than \$50,000 in charitable contributions from this event.

Mr. President, I commend the MITCH club for their efforts and wish them much success in this year's event, as well as many more years of giving back to the community. •